

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4986

To develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from North Korea,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Ms. WATSON, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) introduced
the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To develop a strategy for assisting stateless children from
North Korea, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “North Korean Refugee
5 Adoption Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) thousands of North Korean children do not
9 have families and are threatened with starvation and

1 disease if they remain in North Korea or as stateless
2 refugees in surrounding countries;

3 (2) thousands of United States citizens would
4 welcome the opportunity to adopt North Korean or-
5 phans; and

6 (3) the Secretary of State and the Secretary of
7 Homeland Security should make every effort to fa-
8 cilitate the adoption of any eligible North Korean
9 children.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

11 In this Act:

12 (1) FOREIGN-SENDING COUNTRY.—The term
13 “foreign-sending country”—

14 (A) means—

15 (i) the country of the orphan’s citizen-
16 ship; or

17 (ii) if the orphan is not permanently
18 residing in the country of citizenship, the
19 country of the orphan’s habitual residence;
20 and

21 (B) excludes any country to which the or-
22 phan—

23 (i) travels temporarily; or

1 (ii) travels as a prelude to, or in con-
2 junction with, his or her adoption or immi-
3 gration to the United States.

4 (2) HAGUE COUNTRY.—The term “Hague
5 countries” means a country that is a signatory of
6 the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-
7 operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, done
8 at The Hague on May 29, 1993.

9 (3) NON-HAGUE COUNTRY.—The term “non-
10 Hague country” means a country that is not a sig-
11 natory of the Convention on Protection of Children
12 and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adop-
13 tion, done at The Hague on May 29, 1993.

14 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY ON ADOPTION OF NORTH KOREAN CHIL-**
15 **DREN BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in con-
17 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall develop
19 a comprehensive strategy for facilitating the adoption of
20 North Korean children by United States citizens.

21 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the strategy
22 under this section, the Secretary shall—

23 (1) consider the challenges that United States
24 citizens would encounter in attempting to adopt chil-
25 dren from North Korea who are currently living in

1 Hague countries and non-Hague countries regard-
2 less of their legal status in such countries;

3 (2) propose solutions to deal with the situation
4 in which a North Korean child does not have access
5 to a competent authority in the foreign-sending
6 country;

7 (3) propose solutions to deal with North Korean
8 children who are not considered habitual residents of
9 the countries in which they are located;

10 (4) evaluate alternative mechanisms for foreign-
11 sending countries to prove that North Korean chil-
12 dren are orphans when documentation, such as birth
13 certificates, death certificates of birth parents, or or-
14 phanage documentation, is missing or destroyed;

15 (5) provide suggestions for working with South
16 Korea to establish pilot programs that identify, pro-
17 vide for the immediate care of, and assist in the
18 international adoption of, orphaned North Korean
19 children living within South Korea;

20 (6) provide suggestions for working with aid or-
21 ganizations in Southeast Asia to identify and estab-
22 lish pilot programs for the identification, immediate
23 care, and eventual international adoption of or-
24 phaned children from North Korea;

1 (7) identify other countries in which large num-
2 bers of stateless, orphaned children are living who
3 might be helped by international adoption; and

4 (8) propose solutions for assisting orphaned
5 children with Chinese fathers and North Korean
6 mothers who are living in China and have no access
7 to Chinese or North Korean resources.

8 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90
9 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of State shall submit to Congress a report that con-
11 tains the details of the strategy developed under this sec-
12 tion.

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